

Resource Action (PM&E) Identification Form

Lake Oroville Recreation Area Trails System

10/30/03 DRAFT

1. **Name of Proposed Resource Action (PM&E):** *Lake Oroville Recreation Area Trails System*
2. **Proposed Resource Action (PM&E) – Please describe and include the following:**
 - a. Describe the proposed Resource Action (PM&E) in as much detail as practical:

The existing trail system is segmented and disconnected by obstacles such as highways, railroad tracks, and bodies of water. The overall concept for improvements to the trail system is as follows:

Types of Trail Improvements Needed

- ☐ *To provide safe, legal crossings over the obstacles listed above,*
- ☐ *To develop a comprehensive system of interconnecting trail loops,*
- ☐ *To develop trail connections with other trail systems, i.e. USFS, CDFG, FRRPD, etc.,*
- ☐ *To develop support facilities for trail users, i.e. trailheads , staging areas, campsites, special event areas, etc.,*
- ☐ *Acquire easements, rights-of-ways, and land in fee title as required to improve the trail system, and*
- ☐ *To develop new and special use trails where needed.*

Location of Trail Improvements

There are several geographical reaches included in the project, all of which have existing trail segments that need to be expanded and improved. These geographical reaches are:

- ☐ *Lake Oroville Reservoir related trails*
- ☐ *Diversion Pool/Dam Area related trails*
- ☐ *Forebay/Afterbay related trails*
- ☐ *Feather River related trails*
- ☐ *General Oroville Facility Area related trails*

See paragraph 5 (Exhibit A) for listing of proposed issues/resource actions by each geographical reach.

Priorities In General (Preliminary)

High Priority Trail Resource Actions include those items included in the Diversion Pool Geographical Reach, the Feather River Geographical Reach, and at Lime Saddle. It is believed the completion of trail loops at the Diversion Pool and the Feather River Channel would serve the highest number of overall trail users while also meeting the most pressing needs of local people. New trails are needed at Lime Saddle to connect the new campground to the day use area, and the marina.

Medium Priority Trail Resource Actions include those items included in the Forebay Geographical Reach. The Trail loop in this area should be built when further improvements are made at the Forebay.

Low Priority Trail Resource Actions include those items included in the Afterbay and the East side of Lake Oroville. These trail loops should be built in accordance with future demand.

b. Any physical or operational changes:

X Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

If Yes, Please explain:

A proposed bridge crossing the Diversion Pool could impact the operation of the DWR Maintenance facility in the area of the Diversion Pool Dam.

c. Proposed start date and duration

Start (month/yr): 2007 Duration (month(s)/yr(s): Unknown

d. Location (within FERC boundary/outside FERC boundary)

X Inside X Outside ☐ Don't know

Potential trail links are both inside and outside of the FERC Project Boundary. See attached Trail Map (Exhibit B)

a. Please provide alternative potential Resource Actions (PM&Es) for addressing the same resource goal and/or Project 2100 effects referring to the linked map, or providing a map as appropriate:

Alternative trail routes and precise alignments that accomplish the goal of creating interconnecting loop trails need further planning attention (RD) in the DWR Recreation Management Plan and the Trail Element of the LOSRA General Plan, both of which are presently in process.

- b. Describe the methods for measuring the goals and performance of the Resource Action (PM&E) or methods for evaluating success against the known resource goal(s):

Resource action goals can be measured by the level of use of the Trail System by the community and by visitors to the area for personal, family and group recreational pursuits and by the quality of the experience while using the trails(RD & KH) Also, increase in trail related special events that serve people from the Northern California Region.

- c. Describe the feasibility of the Resource Action (PM&E):

Resource actions that require feasibility analysis relate to the bridging of highways, railroad tracks, and bodies of water at the following locations:

- ☐ (RD & LW)
- ☐ The Feather River/Table Mt. Blvd./ Washington St.(RD) (Exhibit A - Item 16c)
- ☐ The Diversion Pool just before or after the dam structure or by Barrier Dam (RD) (Exhibit A – Item 9a)
- ☐ Head of Diversion Pool (Exhibit A – Item 9e)
- ☐ The Diversion Pool Rail Road Tracks Exhibit A – Item 9b)
- ☐ The Feather River/Hwy 70 Bridge at Riverbend Park (Exhibit A - Item 16a)
- ☐ The Feather River/Oroville Dam Blvd. (RD) West Bridge (Exhibit A – Item 16b)
- ☐ Sports Complex to Forebay Bridge (Exhibit A - Item 15)

- d. Please mark the applicable Working Groups that would be involved in the implementation of this Resource Action (PM&E):

X Land Use and Management
X Recreation & Socioeconomics
X Cultural Resources
X Engineering and Operations
X Environmental

3. Contact Information for Submitter(s) & Alternate Contact:

- a. Organization name: *Trails Task Force*
- b. Preparer's name, phone number and e-mail address: *Pete Dangermond, The Dangermond Group, 916-313-4615, info@dangermond.com*

- c. Secondary contact person, phone number and e-mail address: *Pete Soderberg, The Dangermond Group, 916-313-4617, psoderberg@dangermond.com*
- d. Date prepared: *10/1/03*
- e. Organization(s) represented by submitter: *Lake Oroville Joint Powers Authority*

Please fill out the following questions to the best of your ability, understanding that you may not have this information or it may not be available.

4. Resource Goals:

- a. Identify and describe the resource goal the Resource Action (PM&E) is related to, providing reference to the resource goal number(s) described, as appropriate:

- ☐ *R01: Adequacy of existing project recreation facilities, opportunities, and access to accommodate current use and future demand - (R01.03, R01.04, R01.05, R01.06, R01.07, R01.10, R01.11, R01.13, R01.14, R01.17, R01.18, R01.21, R01.24, and R01.25)*
- ☐ *R02: Adequacy of public safety at the Oroville Project recreation facilities - (R02.01, R02.02, R02.03, R02.04, R02.05, R02.06, R02.08, and R02.08)*
- ☐ *R03: Impacts of facilities operations on recreation and socioeconomic opportunities - (R03.06, R03.08, and R03.09)*
- ☐ *R04: Adequacy of operations and maintenance and clean-up activities associated with existing and new recreation areas - (R04.04, R04.05, and R04.06)*
- ☐ *R05: Appropriate recreation funding, development, and management structure - (R05.01, R05.02, R05.03, R05.05, R05.06, R05.07, R05.08, R05.09, R05.11, R05.13, R05.14, and R05.15)*
- ☐ *S01: Improve economic development through recreation opportunities at the Oroville Facilities - (S01.01, S01.02, S01.03, and S01.05)*

- b. Explanation of how the Resource Action (PM&E) furthers that goal: *The resource action(s) is (are) a series of trail segments and support facilities that enhance the trail system at Lake Oroville and its environs. These projects are related to the goals listed under each resource Issue statement referred to above. The resource action(s) further the stated goals by putting in place an integrated system of loop trails connecting to outside trail systems (RD) that serve the needs of local trail users and visitors to the area. (See Resource Goals - Recreation and Socioeconomics pages 29-35 for description of each specific goal)*

5. Identify the Resource Issue/Relationship to Project and Relicensing

- a. Describe the issue the Resource Action (PM&E) is intended to address, referring as appropriate to Issue Statement(s) number(s):

The issue statements have been rolled into the resource actions in this process. They have been organized into groupings under each geographical reach as set forth in item 2a above.

- ☐ *Lake Oroville Reservoir Related Trails*
- ☐ *Diversion Pool/Dam Area Related Trails*
- ☐ *Forebay/Afterbay Related Trails*
- ☐ *Feather River Related Trails*
- ☐ *General Oroville Facility Area Related Trails*

See Exhibit A for list of resource actions

- b. Describe the relationship between the Resource Action (PM&E) and the project, including any project impacts the Resource Action (PM&E) is intended to address:

Trails should circumscribe and, when feasible, cross over the bodies of water included in the FERC Relicensing Project. This includes Lake Oroville, the Diversion Pool, the Forebay, and the Afterbay. Existing trails segments are located above the high water line. Additional trail segments and bridge crossings are needed to complete the existing elements of a loop trail system. There are no impacts on the operation of the hydroelectric power-generating project as a result of contemplated improvements to the trail system.

- c. Identify any comprehensive plans that this Resource Action (PM&E) is related to:

The resource action(s) is (are) related to the FRRPD Master Plan, City of Oroville General Plan, City of Oroville Public Facilities and Services Element (1995), Butte County General Plan, LOSRA General Plan (1973), LOSRA General Plan Amendment - Lime Saddle Area (1988), the LOSRA General Plan in progress, DPR Statewide Trails Plan, California Riding & Hiking Trail Plan, and Butte County Bicycle Plan. (RD)

Lake Oroville Recreation Area Trails System Proposed Resource Actions

Proposed Resource Actions with Consensus

Reservoir Area Potential Resource Actions

1. Develop a continuous multi-use loop trail system (LW) around the entire reservoir with smaller sections of trails, which may or may not be multi-use (TR, pages 4-5)
2. Create a series of staging areas and campgrounds around Lake Oroville that are accessible and accommodating to trail system users. (TR, page 4)
3. Create connecting trail or trails to US Forest System trails from Forman Creek, to Beckworth Trail and from Ponderosa Dam to Feather Falls to the Pacific Crest Trail (TR, page 4)
4. Complete loop trail from top of dam into Potters Ravine, to Table Mountain, if feasible (RD) to Goat Ranch Camp Area and then back to Potters Ravine via Bloomers Camp. (State Parks has two grants to build segment of trail in this area. (TR, pages 4-5)
5. Study Crystal Peak/Forman Creek Areas for potential trails. (This is part of National Indian Trails discussion, so there is a need for collaboration with tribal leaders) (TR, page 5)
6. Assess trails for interpretive opportunities (historical, cultural, natural science related). Implement opportunities in relate these to hub areas such as campgrounds and staging areas. (TR, page 5)
7. Assess potential for obtaining easements and/or right-of-way through PG&E transmission line right-of-way to connect California Department of Parks and Recreation trails from Beatson Hollow across peninsula to Bloomer on the North Fork. (TR, page 5)
8. Add Saddle Dam Trailhead improvements (OR-4) (Done except for water.) (RD, KH)
9. Develop a new multipurpose trail in the Lime Saddle Area connecting the marina, the day use facilities, and the campground. (OR-65)

Diversion Pool/Dam Area Potential Resource Actions

10. Develop a multiple use loop trail around the Diversion Pool: (TR, page 7) (DP9)
11. Open Diversion Pool Dam to trail connection use or build another bridge over the Diversion Pool or River Channel below the Diversion Pool Dam, i.e., pontoon or suspension bridge. (DP9)
12. Develop a safe crossing of the railroad tracks for trail users and connection to the trail system, or, as an alternative to avoid the RR crossing, acquire an easement from Montgomery Street (East) to the Lakeland Blvd. Area trailhead (RD) (TR, page 6) (DP10)
13. Pave trail connection from the Fish Hatchery to a bridge over the Diversion Pool in the area of the Diversion Pool Dam.(Include dirt lane on bridge for horses (RD) (TR, page 6) (DP15)
14. Add a second new bridge over the head of the Diversion Pool (possibly pontoon or suspension), including short connecting trails, to connect Burma Road with the old RR grade. (TR, page 7) (DP9 & DP11) (RD questions necessity)
15. Acquire a permanent easement or fee title to PG&E land for access and habitat protection from Canyon Dr. to Lakeland Blvd. (13) (TR, page 6) (Easement only required from area of Oro-Dam Blvd. KH)
16. Equestrian trailhead improvements on south side of Diversion Pool: Extend water line to trailhead and adjacent area. Provide additional horse tethering facilities and permanent restrooms. Gravel surfacing of dirt road. (DP2) (KH)
17. Purchase 83-acre parcel on the south side of the river across from the Diversion Dam to create a regional park /multi-use area (concessionaire item per (LW) and Day Use and Event Camping Area that would have access to the equestrian trail system in the Diversion Pool Area. (It has been suggested that this might be a good place to provide access for the Brad Freeman Trail to cross the railroad tracks and the Feather River.) (TR, page 6) (DP5 &16)
18. Utilize the DWR owned property between the Diversion Pool and Cherokee Rd. for a special event/multi-use rodeo grounds/ (RD) camping/lodging area. (TR, page 6) (DP17)

Thermalito Forebay/Afterbay Potential Resource Actions

19. Develop a Loop trail around the Forebay and Afterbay: Create several thousand feet of new trail, connecting existing segments of the Brad Freeman Trail, to allow multiple use non-motorized access around margin of these water bodies. (TR, page 9) (TF17) (Already exists per RD & KH)
20. Develop a bridge over the canal from the Forebay to the Nelson Sports Complex. (TR, page 6) (TF16)

Feather River Potential Resource Actions

21. Create a Feather River Loop Trail with river crossings and bridge connections in conjunction with new and/or existing bridges, i.e.,
22. Feather River at Riverbend Park/Hwy 70 Bridge crossing
23. Feather River/Oroville Dam Blvd. West Bridge crossing
24. Safe, legal crossing at Feather River/Table Mt. Blvd./Washington St.. (RD) Historic Bridge crossing by the Nature Center (TR, P7 & P9)
25. Utilize levee tops and/or flumes for trail alignments from Riverbend Park to the Forebay, to the Afterbay, to the Wildlife Area, to Gridley, to Yuba City, to Marysville (RD) eventually connecting to the Sacramento River and the Town of Paradise. (TR, page 9)

General Oroville Facility Area Potential Resource Actions

26. Examine potential for restoration and dedication of historical trails and transportation routes such as:
 - Old railroad grades
 - Native Indian trails
 - Historical trail from Craig Saddle to Feather Falls
 - Stone wagon road up North Fork
 - Railroad grade from French Creek to Poe Dam on North Fork.
 - Swain Logging Railroad Grade/Feather Falls railroad grade
 - Flume grades at Lime Saddle (examine ways to re-open) (TR, P11)
27. Conduct the studies for resource actions recommended in this report, and develop criteria for the Trail Plan Element of the Lake Oroville Recreation

Management Plan for the Alternative FERC Re-licensing Project, and the Lake Oroville SRA Master Plan, which is in process. (TR, page 11)

28. Encourage volunteerism for trail maintenance and operations. (Added by Trails TF 8/20/03)
29. Oro-Dam Blvd. Bike Lane Extension: Extend connection of bike lane from Orange Ave. up Oro-Dam Blvd. To Canyon Dr. (near Oroville Dam add blacktop, widen as needed) (DP19)(CH)

Proposed Resource Actions Without Consensus

Consensus was not reached by the Trails Task Force on the following items:

30. Pave a portion of the Brad Freeman Trail using less than half the width (on the railroad alignment) for a greater variety of users, including (LW) bicycles, from the Diversion Pool Dam area to Oroville Dam. (TR, Page 6) (DP13)

While equestrians are willing to share multiple use trails with bicyclists on dirt or gravel surfaces, they are not willing to place their horses in an environment where they could contact asphalt or other hard surface. This issue is presently focused on the Diversion Pool railroad grade multiple use trail alignment, which bicyclists would like to have improved to include a paved bike lane. All proposals to date have left over half the width of the railroad grade unpaved to accommodate equestrians. (LW) This issue will ultimately have to be solved by DPR in the update to the Trails Element of the LOSRA Master Plan, which is presently in process. Two possibilities for consideration are:

- o Leave the railroad trail alignment un-improved and continue to have pedestrian, equestrian, and mountain bike use, while focusing the roller-skating, baby stroller, wheelchair and (LW) touring bike use (which requires a hard, smooth surface) on the trail system below the Diversion Pool Dam in the Feather River Low Flow Channel/Forebay/Afterbay.
 - o evaluate separated trails wherever possible (80% plus or minus) and where not possible, develop (TDG)short, non-paved sections for multiple use.
31. Develop a Diversion Pool demonstration mountain bike loop trail parallel to the Dan Beebe Trail, for separation of equestrian and mountain bike use, including special technical features designed in conjunction with local enthusiasts. (TR, page6) (DP14)

The original concept for a demonstration Mt. Bike Trail was to provide a dedicated trail parallel to the hiking and riding trail on the south side of the

Diversion Pool. In addition, the railroad alignment would be multiple use to complete a loop for all trail users. Since this concept was put forward CDPR has converted the existing Dan Beebe hiking and riding trail to multiple use and the mountain bike community has withdrawn their support for a special use demonstration mountain bike trail. Equestrians are advocating for a return of the Dan Beebe hiking and riding trail to special use for hikers and equestrians and the development of the special use trail for the mountain bikers. The issue of converting this Dan Beebe Hiking and Riding Trail segment to multiple use has been appealed to FERC and is in the process of review by CDPR, DWR, and FERC. Ultimately the issue will be addressed in the update to the Trail Element of the LOSRA General Plan update.

32. Examine potential for restoration and dedication of historical trails and transportation routes such as the Oroville Hiking and Equestrian Trail, i.e., Dan Beebe and Roy Rogers Trails. (TR, P11)

This proposed resource action is opposed by the bicycle stakeholders because they see it as a vehicle to classify existing segments of the Roy Rogers and Dan Beebe Trail Systems as limited to only the uses that were in existence at the time the trails were developed (hiking and horse back riding). Ultimately, the types of uses that are permitted on these trails are under the jurisdiction of the CDPR and (LW) will have to be addressed in the LOSRA General Plan update.

General Comments from Task Force Members

Ron Davis

1. The trails at Kelly Ridge and Loafer Creek serve the highest number people and meet the most pressing need of local people.
2. The Diversion Pool area should remain as a low-density use area.
3. The highest priority item is solving the state created biker/equestrian & hiker controversy.
4. Performance should be measured by the quality of trail experiences.
5. Extend the ban of motors (on boats in the Diversion Pool) to State personnel.
6. Unlock Lakeland Blvd. Gate.
7. Forebay/Afterbay loop trail already great, don't overdo.
8. Keep No. side of Diversion Pool primitive.

Kathy Hodges

1. We must first have trails restored to compliance with current approved recreation plan in order to have unbiased participation by trail users in this process!
2. Any new bridges over the Diversion Pool should be for multiple use

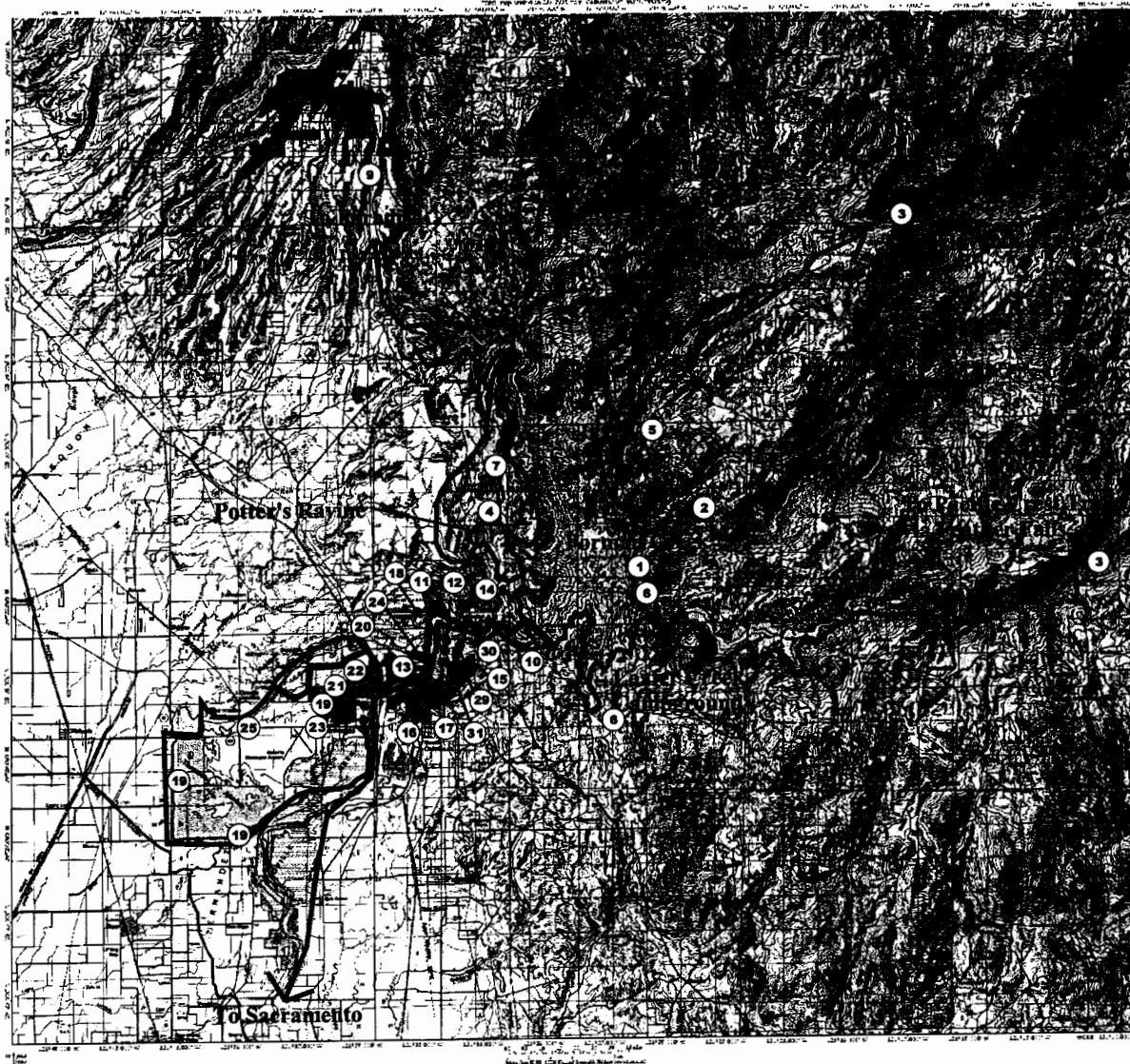
3. Consider Orange Ave. RR crossing connection
4. Unlock Lakeland Blvd. Gate.
5. Baseline studies, cumulative impact studies, needs analysis must be done based on existing conditions under current recreation plan!

Notes:

1. Page numbers in parenthesis at the end of resource actions are references to the page in the September 13, 2001 Trails Report (Appendix 1)
2. Letter/numbers in parenthesis (i.e., DP10) at end of resource actions are cross- references to the RSEWG Resource Action Listing dated July 31, 2003.
3. Key to changes: RD = Ron Davis, KH = Kathy Hodges, LW = Lyle Wright, TDG = The Dangermond Group
4. See attached Lake Oroville Trail System Vision Map for location of trail resource actions.

LAKE OROVILLE TRAIL SYSTEM VISION

November 2003



Key to Trails Vision

1. Loop trail system around reservoir (Not Shown)
2. Trail accessible staging areas/campsites around reservoir
3. USFS trail connections
4. Potters Ravine loop trail
5. Crystal Peak/Forman Creek trails
6. Interpretive trails
7. Obtain PG&E Easements and/or rights-of-ways
8. Saddle Dam Trailhead improvements
9. Lime Saddle trails
10. Diversion Pool multiple use loop trail
11. Lower Diversion Pool bridge in Diversion Pool dam area.
12. Railroad track trail crossing
13. Pave trail Fish Hatchery to Diversion Pool bridge
14. Upper Diversion Pool bridge
15. Acquire Canyon Dr. to Lakeland Blvd. easement
16. Equestrian trailhead improvements
17. Purchase 83 acres of additional parkland
18. Utilize DWR property for special event area
19. Forebay/Afterbay multiple use loop trail
20. Sports complex/forebay bridge connection
21. Feather River loop trail
22. Feather River at Riverbend Park/Hwy. 70 bridge crossing
23. Feather River/Oroville Dam Blvd. West bridge crossing
24. Safe, legal crossing at Feather River/Olive Hwy. bridge crossing
25. Utilize levee tops and/or flumes for trails
26. Restoration/dedication of historic trails in general (Not shown)
27. Conduct studies of proposed resource actions (Not Shown)
28. Encourage volunteerism for trails O/M (Not Shown)
29. Oroville Dam Blvd bike lane extension
30. Pave Diversion Pool bike path
31. Diversion Pool demonstration mountain bike loop trail
32. Restoration/dedication of historic Roy Rogers/Dan Beebe trails (Not Shown)

